

REMARKS

With entry of this amendment, claims 10-16 and 20, 22 and 24 are pending. Claims 10-16 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 22 has been amended to be limited to peritoneal macrophages, triacylated mycobacterial lipoprotein, and TLR-1 independent response. The amendment is supported in the originally filed claims, and throughout the specification. No new matter has been added. Claims 25 and 26 have been canceled. Reconsideration is requested.

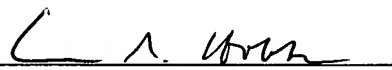
Claims 22 and 24-26 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as not being enabled. It was the Examiner's view that the specification is enabling for a method of screening substances that promote or suppress a response to triacylated mycobacterial lipoproteins in a TLR-1 independent manner using peritoneal macrophages, and that it does not reasonably enable the use of the claimed method using any cells of the mouse to screen for substances that modulate responsiveness to any mycobacterial lipoprotein/lipopeptide.

Although Applicants disagree, in order to expedite prosecution, claim 22 has been amended to limit the cells to peritoneal macrophages isolated from the transgenic mouse, to limit the protein to triacylated mycobacterial lipoprotein, and to limit the response to being TLR-1 independent. Although the Examiner suggested that the control mouse should be a wild-type littermate, Applicant respectfully submits that the instant specification also enables the use of a wild-type mouse as control. This position is supported by the specification as filed, which recites "it is preferable to use wild-type nonhuman animals" (see page 13, lines 25-26). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and Notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If any issues remain in the application that might be resolved by a telephone discussion, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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